

and therefore a greater bringing out of the lay element. Starting from that, we decided to hand over the first and fourth Wednesdays of the month to the clergy; and the second and third almost entirely to the laity; and when there was a fifth Wednesday in the month to have on it a missionary meeting. Proceeding to a subdivision, it was thought best that there should be something special to characterize each evening, and so it was agreed that the dispensation of the sacrament of baptism should be confined to the first Wednesday, and that on the same evening there should be a sermon, lecture or address by the presiding minister; and that on the fourth Wednesday great prominence should be given by him to the reading of the word of God, especially with a view to throwing light on large passages of it that might furnish reading for a week or two at family worship. Then on the second evening the services were to be entirely devotional,—short prayers from six or eight different persons, a few minutes allowed for silent prayer, and frequent singing. On the same evening a subject was to be announced as a topic for thought during the week and for conversation on the third Wednesday. Then when the third Wednesday came, any one might rise to speak on the subject, and there was to be a bell on the table for the minister to strike if any one should go on speaking prosily more than nine or ten minutes. As a rule we desired speeches of five minutes in length. Such was the plan proposed and it has been in operation three or four months. It is too soon to speak of its working, but I cannot say that it has yet worked any wonderful change or that there is any marked preference for one evening over another. The great body of those that attend one night attend every night. I will add only one word more just now, and that is that I hope no one will think that I look for numerous and interested and spiritual worshippers from any amount of engineering or organization; but neither do I think that dullness and routine will be blessed by the spirit of God. We are inclined, I fear, in things spiritual to excuse our own ignorance, or indifference, by pleading that God alone can do His own work. He will do His own work, but He will have us do our work, and our work is everything that we can possibly do or try to do.

GEORGE M. GRANT.

—o—

(From the *Charlottetown P. E. I. Patriot*.)
St. James' Church Sab. School Tea-Meeting.

Having occasion, recently, to visit the metropolis of our Island, we were informed that in the evening the Sabbath School children of St. James' Church were to meet, in order to enjoy a happy hour or two with their teachers and friends, and to partake of the Tea and Refreshments kindly provided for them

by the Ladies of the Congregation. On entering the large public Hall, secured for the purpose, we were quite taken by surprise at the scene which presented itself. We found the Hall crowded with a large assemblage of the ladies and gentlemen of Charlottetown, who embraced the opportunity of shewing their interest in the success of the Sabbath School, and their friendly feelings towards the Pastor and people of St. James' Church. The children, of whom there were present between two and three hundred, had just finished their tea before we entered, and from the appearance of the tables and the abundance of all good things with which we saw the old folks regaling themselves, it was evident the young ones had a good time of it. After this practical part of the meeting was finished, and all who felt inclined partook of the tea, and either thought or said something in praise of the fair hands which so well and plentifully furnished the tables, order was called for by the Chairman, the Hon. Colonel Gray, whom we were much pleased to see presiding on such an occasion. To manifest an interest in the welfare of the young, to countenance and encourage the teachers and pupils of the humble Sabbath School, is serving his country as certainly, and even in a higher sense, than when encountering hardships and danger in the campaign and on the battle-field. Long may the generous Col. be spared to preside, year after year, at the meeting of the Sabbath School Children of St. James' Church.

After a few remarks in which the Chairman expressed to the pupils and the teachers the interest he felt in their work and welfare, and the pleasure it afforded him to witness so happy a meeting, the children were requested to sing a few of their School Hymns. To all present this was a treat worth going some distance for. Truly, the faculty of singing is a divine gift, and one of the most precious. On this side of Heaven, what is there to surpass, in sweetness and power, a concert of infant voices joined together in the hymns of praise? Hardened, and almost past hope is the heart which feels not strong and melting emotions when lisping their Heavenly song. For about two hours the company were entertained with singing, and short addresses from Dr. Young, the Superintendent, Mr. Kennedy, and several others. At the close, prizes were distributed, by the Chairman, to the most deserving of the Scholars. The test of merit was not the progress made by the individual, but success of the effort expected of each regular Scholar to draw, from among the poor and neglected outside, other children to attend the school—a happy thought, thus to stimulate children in such a work. Several of the little ones had to report—or rather the Superintendent reported it for them—that they had found out, and persuaded to attend the School, some one, and others two or more, who have